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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the declaration of the European Council on the peace process in the Middle East, issued on 29 June 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jan de MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Declaration on the peace process in the Middle East
issued on 29 June 1991 by the European Council

The European Council has examined the state of play on the Middle East peace process. While reaffirming its well-known positions of principle, it emphasized the necessity of setting in motion without delay a process, on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), leading to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question.

To this end, the European Council believes that the current initiative, launched by the United States of America, offers real prospects of peace in the region. It confirms its firm support for this initiative and calls urgently upon all parties to overcome final difficulties so that a peace conference can be convened. As a participant in the peace conference, the Community and its member States aim to make their full contribution to its success and to the negotiations between the parties.

Besides a settlement of the Palestinian question through the exercise of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, lasting peace and the stability of the region should involve the end of the state of belligerence among all States in the region, the commitment not to resort to force and to the peaceful settlement of disputes, and respect for the territorial integrity of all States, including Israel.

The European Council confirms the determination of the Community and its member States to contribute to the economic and social development of all peoples in the region once the prospect of peace is clear. To this end, the Community and its member States will work to promote intra-regional solidarity and relations of friendship and cooperation with all countries in the region. The Community and its member States emphasize their interest in a political dialogue with regional groupings.

The European Council once again underlines the need for all parties to adopt reciprocal and balanced measures to establish a climate of confidence to get the negotiations going, and to avoid all measures that might hinder the process. It believes specifically that the policy of establishing settlements in the territories occupied by Israel, which is in any case illegal, is incompatible with the will expressed to make progress with the peace process.